

*crotus* with imperfectly formed finlets, showing a closer approach to a fully developed *Prometheus atlanticus* than *D. armatus*.

After attentively considering the descriptions of the species placed by Dr. Günther under the genus *Thyrsites* (Brit. Mus. Cat. ii. 350), as well as some of the fishes themselves, it appears to me that a more satisfactory arrangement would be to distribute the species amongst three genera, thus:—

1. THYRSITES. Fishes having teeth on the palatines, perfect ventrals, finlets, and a skin naked or furnished with simple scales.

*T. atun*, C. & V., and *T. lepidopoides*, C. & V.

2. RUVETTUS. Includes a single very distinct species, remarkable for having a keeled abdomen, and the skin everywhere furnished with bony bodies, each bearing several spines—possessing also teeth on the palatines, perfect ventrals, and finlets.

*Ruvettus pretiosus*, Cocco.

3. PROMETHEUS. Distinguished by having each ventral reduced to a single spine, as well as by having teeth on the palatines, finlets, and a skin either naked or furnished with simple scales.

*P. atlanticus*, Lowe; *P. solandri*, C. & V.; *P. prometheoides*, Bleek.

The genus *Gempylus* is distinguished from all these by the absence of teeth from the palatines.

To return for a moment to *Ruvettus pretiosus* (“ce curieux, ce précieux poisson,”—*Valenciennes*), the “Escolar” of Madeiran fishermen, it may be noted that, although one of the characters given in the ‘British Museum Catalogue’ is the want of a lateral line, this line may be made out in fishes fresh from the sea. It commences on a level with the upper border of the opercle, but at some distance behind it, and then descends gently until it arrives at the middle of the height of the fish, which position it keeps on the posterior half of the body.

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May 23, 1865.

John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

Mr. Sclater called the attention of the Meeting to a rare and interesting Parrot lately presented to the Society’s collection by Mr. P. N. Bernard, being an example of the *Chrysotis augusta* (*Psittacus augustus*, Vigors, P. Z. S. 1836, p. 80) from the West-Indian Island Dominica. Mr. Bernard stated that this Parrot was very rare in Dominica, being seldom seen, and that only one or two were caught during the year; its abode was in the very centre and most mountainous part of the island. Mr. Bernard was well acquainted with

all the West-Indian Islands, and had been several times in Dominica. But it was only in last year that he saw one of these Parrots for the first time. The only inhabitant of the island who had one domesticated was the Governor; and although Mr. Bernard offered a large price to the native sportsmen, it was only at the end of twelve months that they had succeeded in obtaining the young one now in the Society's possession. The natives of Dominica called this bird "*Ciceroo*."

The tenth of a series of memoirs, by Professor Owen, on the extinct Dinornithine Birds of New Zealand, was read. The present memoir contained the description of parts of the skeleton of a flightless bird, indicative of a new genus and species of the family, which Professor Owen proposed to call *Cnemiornis calcitrans*. The materials upon which the present paper was based had been gathered from the bottom of a fissure in a limestone rock at Timaru, in the Middle Island of New Zealand, by Dr. David S. Price. The *Cnemiornis* was supposed to have been of about the same stature as Bennett's Cassowary. The name chosen bore relation to the remarkable size of the processes of the tibia in this form.

This paper will be printed entire in the Society's 'Transactions.'

The following papers were read:—

1. ON THE MORBID APPEARANCES OBSERVED IN THE DISSECTION OF THE PENGUIN (*APTENODYTES FORSTERI*). BY PROF. OWEN, F.R.S., F.Z.S., ETC.

The Penguin was a male, but with the testes small, as at the non-breeding season. The coats of one of the large abdominal air-cells were thickened, and roughened by granular deposits of a caseous, quasi-strumous nature; and larger flattened masses of the same substance were scattered in the connecting substance of the diseased air-cell with the thoracic abdominal parietes. These appearances indicated old-standing disease. But the more immediate cause of death was inflammation of the coats of the stomach and adjoining peritoneum or air-cells. The stomach—a full oval cavity, about 6 inches in longest diameter—was distended with a mass of putrid yellow-grey pultaceous matter and portions of half-digested fishes. It occupied the hinder and under part of the abdominal cavity, extending from the sternum to the pelvis, and so closely adherent to the abdominal parietes that its coats seemed, on dissection, to be an inner or deep-seated layer of the abdominal muscles. The peritoneum, when separated, had a rough or finely gritty or granular surface, with red vascular inflammatory patches, and was adherent, beyond the stomach, to the mass of intestines.

The contents of the stomach were in so putrid a state as to lead to the inference that, for want of power of digestion, the ordinary chemical changes had commenced before the death of the bird, and been concomitant with, if not the cause of, the inflammation of that